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R5R882

Rural Youth IN SOUTHERN INDIANA

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY, INVESTIGATION, AND DISCUSSION
BY OLDER RURAL YOUTH GROUPS, COMMUNITY AND COUNTY
PLANNING COMMITTEES, MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATIONS, HIGH
SCHOOL CLASSES, AND OTHERS



THE FACTS WERE COLLECTED BY OLDER RURAL YOUTH OF MONROE AND ORANGE COUNTIES, ASSISTED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY EXPERIMENT STATION AND EXTENSION SERVICE, AND OF THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S.

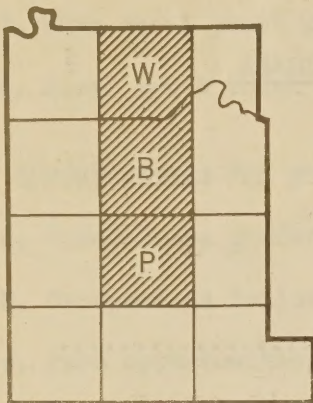
This survey of Rural Youth in Southern Indiana is one of a series made in Blackford, LaPorte, Hancock, Monroe, and Orange Counties, Indiana.

The number of youth included in this survey in Southern Indiana is small compared with the surveys in the other counties. But a fair sample, probably, has been obtained. This circular should be considered as primarily an experiment in presenting statistical data in a form suitable for youth, and older people also, to use in studying and discussing their social and economic problems.

The survey of the youth was made by the members of the rural youth clubs of Monroe and Orange Counties under the leadership of Walter Rogers and R. N. Atkinson, respectively, county agricultural agents. Harry F. Ainsworth, of Purdue Extension Service, assisted in arrangements for planning, conducting, summarizing and reporting the survey. The Department of Education of the Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc., Cyrus L. Dyer, Director; the Indiana Rural Life Council, O. F. Hall, chairman; and the Indiana Rural Youth endorsed the survey and assisted in its planning. The interest of Director H. J. Reed, of the Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station, made the study possible. Nat T. Frame and O. E. Baker, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, assisted in this survey. Mr. Frame wrote the text of this circular.

The information as to the farm opportunities for youth was derived from interviews conducted with township and county committeemen of the A.A.A., and other well informed farmers, concerning the present situation and future possibilities on each farm in the townships included in the survey. The information as to the present location and occupation of the graduates of the rural schools in 1930 was assembled by the county agents and their assistants in each county. Doris Robinson, office secretary to the county agent in Monroe County, was particularly helpful in all phases of the work in that county. The schedules were tabulated by the Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station under the direction of Lynn Robertson.

TOWNSHIPS INCLUDED IN THIS SURVEY



MONROE COUNTY

IN BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY

W - *Washington Township*

B - *Bloomington Township*

P - *Perry Township*

Young people 18-28 in 1940:

Young men - 59

Young women - 53

ORANGE COUNTY

IN ORLEANS COMMUNITY

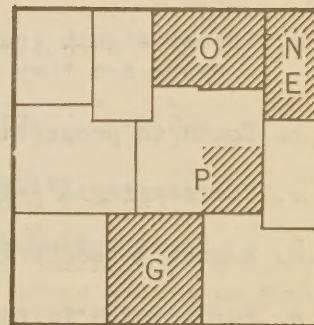
O - *Orleans Township*

NE - *Northeast Township*

IN PAOLI COMMUNITY

P - *Paoli Township*

G - *Greenfield*



Young people 18-28 in 1940:

Young men - 56

Young women - 43

RURAL YOUTH IN SOUTHERN INDIANA

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Suggestions for Officers, Program Chairmen, and
Other Chosen Leaders of Groups Interested in
Rural Youth and Their Problems.

No generation of rural youth has ever faced tougher problems or greater opportunities than the young Rural Americans now between 18 and 28 years of age.

Generally they realize that individually they will have to be well informed and collectively they will have to think and work together if they solve their problems and seize their opportunities.

This little bulletin is based on facts collected by rural youth in self-conducted surveys in selected townships in Southern Indiana.

If individual Rural Youth in Indiana or elsewhere will read it slowly and thoughtfully, and if study groups will use it for its factual information and its suggestions for discussions, it may be found a help toward straight thinking and constructive action.

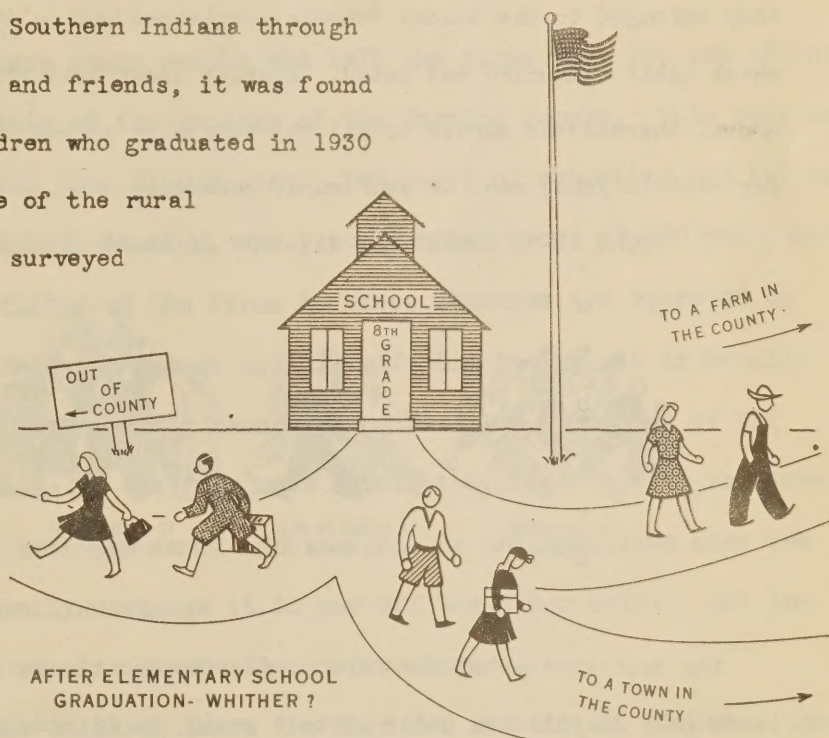
The Rural Youth who helped prepare it, and their adult co-operators, certainly hope it may prove useful.

I. YOUTH IN THE RURAL COMMUNITY

(a) Former Eighth Grade Graduates from the Rural Schools; where are they and what are they doing?

The last day of school, when you finished the eighth grade, was undoubtedly a day of rejoicing for you and for all your fellow graduates. Do you remember how many there were of you? Can you name them all? What have become of them; how many are now living on farms? How many are living in town in the same county? How many have left the county? If you can get this information, you will have facts that will help you understand what is meant when people talk about migration. In Southern Indiana through relatives, teachers, and friends, it was found out that of 139 children who graduated in 1930 from the eighth grade of the rural schools in townships surveyed after 10 years:

47 lived on farms
in the county,
42 moved to towns
in the county,
50 had left the
county



For discussion:

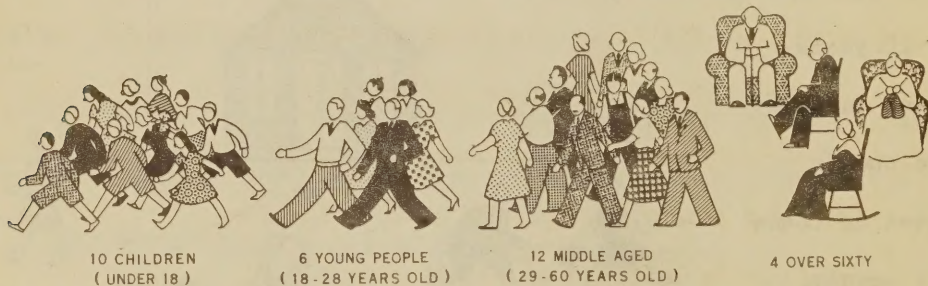
NEG. 39225 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

1. Is it likely that the children now in the eighth grade of rural schools in your community will migrate in the next ten years in about the same proportion as has been done by graduates in the past ten years? Will about two out of six become farmers in the county, two move to a town in the county, and two go out of the county? If not, what will the proportion likely be?
2. Who pays for the schooling of those who go to town or leave the county? Have the farms of your community paid an undue proportion of the school costs of those who have gone out of the community to spend the rest of their lives?

(b) Youth in Proportion to Other Ages in the Community

Some rural communities are made up largely of old folks. Others have lots of young people. In one township in Southern Indiana every tenth farm was operated by an aged couple. There were less than a dozen youth on the two hundred farms in this township. Here seemed to be lots of farm opportunities for youth, but there was very little going on in the community to appeal to youth. In another township in the same county there was one youth to every other farm and most of them had to get jobs in a nearby town, yet they belonged to the Sunday Schools and helped put on the sociables for which their community was noted. Luckily about half of them were young women, whereas the survey of all the townships showed only 8 young women for each 10 young men. Of your rural community

WOULD IT BE CORRECT TO SAY THAT OF 32 RURAL PEOPLE THERE WERE



NEG. 39226 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

The distribution of the farm population for the United States as a whole is roughly 10 children under 18 to 6 youth, to 13 middle-aged, to 3 over 60 years. This farm population is more than reproducing itself. The surplus is maintaining the population of the cities.

For discussion:

1. If your community has an undue proportion of aged people and adults what will happen in the next ten years? Who will take over the operation of the farms as the old people drop out?
2. If your community has many youth and children, where will they find their opportunities in life? Can the farms be reorganized so as to offer more opportunities, or will they have to go to town or leave the county in larger proportions than the youth of the community have been accustomed to leave in the past?

(c) The Meaning of Migration from the Farms

From the farms of your community, as well as from those surveyed in Southern Indiana, young people left the farms in large numbers as they grew to manhood and womanhood during the period 1930 to 1940. The rural farm population of Monroe County decreased 12 percent, while that of Orange County remained stationary.

What did this movement from the farms mean to the farming people of these communities?

1. It meant that these young people who left the farms were fed and clothed and educated mostly at the expense of the farming people. This cost was certainly not less than \$150 a year. Ten years of schooling and 15 years of feeding, clothing, housing, etc., would total about \$2,000 per youth.
2. More than four-fifths of the farms in these counties are operated by their owners. When the farmer and his wife die the estate is usually divided more or less equally among the heirs. The one-third of the children who remain on the farm must divide the property with the two-thirds who have left the farm. If some of the children take over the farm, they generally mortgage it to pay off the other heirs. Not infrequently this results eventually in foreclosure.
3. Sometimes all the children leave the farm for the cities, and when the father dies or retires the farm is sold or rented. In this case usually all the value of the farm or the rental payment flows to the towns and cities.

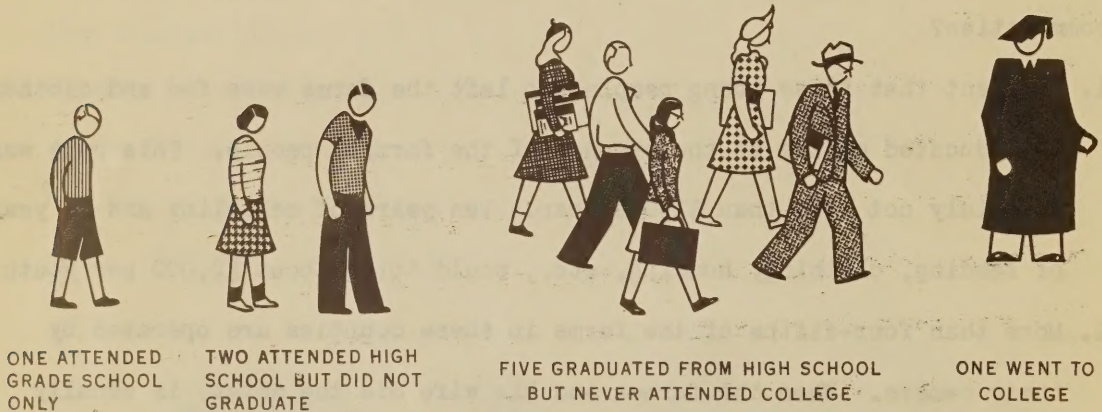
For discussion:

1. What can be done to reduce the drift of wealth from the farming areas associated with migration of youth?

(d) Education and Training of Rural Youth

One measure of the effectiveness of the schools in any community is how well they hold their students, how many finish at least high school. As you review in your own mind the class with which you came up through the grades,

CAN YOU SAY THAT OF EACH NINE YOUNG PEOPLE



NEG. 39227 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

This was the record for the youth studied in Southern Indiana.

Some other training opportunities of which they also took advantage:

Monroe County, 22% of the boys and 80% of the girls had been 4H Club Members
Orange County, 29% of the boys and 70% of the girls had been 4H Club Members

10% of boys in Monroe and 20% in Orange had had vocational agriculture
50% of girls in Monroe and 40% in Orange had had vocational home economics

For discussion:

1. Are all the children of school age in your community taking full advantage of all educational opportunities open to them?
2. Are the youth in your community who have had 4H Club experience able and willing to act as leaders of 4H Clubs? Do the 4H Clubs have adequate local leadership at all times?
3. What can be done to make vocational training and vocational guidance more helpful to youth in your community?

(c) Rural Youth in the Churches

In the Southern Indiana communities studied the church was the one outstanding institution, other than the family and the school, influencing rural youth. Two thirds of the young men and three fourths of the young women went to Church or Sunday School one third or more of the time. About one fifth of them were officers or teachers in Sunday Schools. Rural young people who were church members had over \$100 per year higher earnings, on an average, than nonchurch members.

There was at least one interesting difference between the two counties:

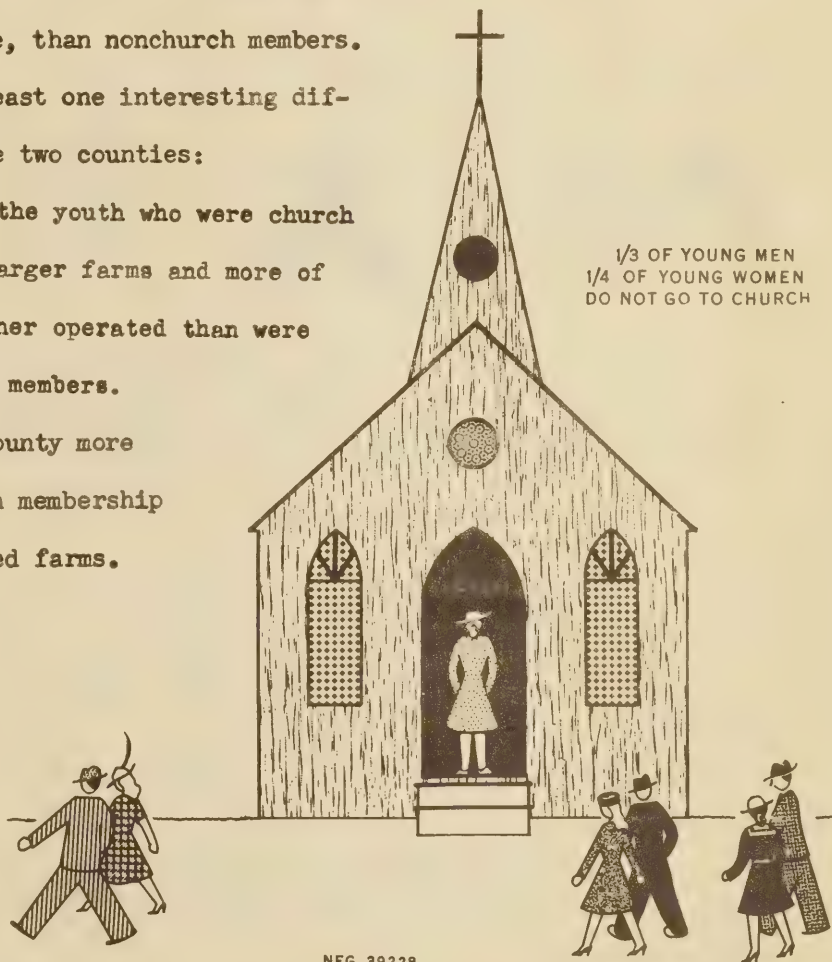
In one county the youth who were church members lived on larger farms and more of their farms were owner operated than were those of non-church members.

In the other county more of the youth church membership came from the rented farms.

Does your church
appeal mostly to
people with
higher incomes?
lower incomes?
everybody?

For discussions:

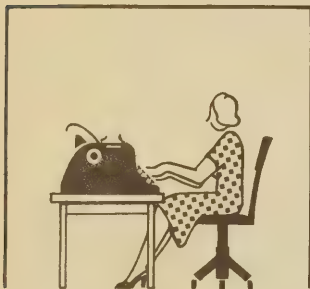
1. Do the churches of your community help sponsor activities especially planned to meet the interests of youth? What might the churches do in addition to what they are already doing in this field?
2. What are the churches doing to make the people with little money feel at home in the churches? Are they succeeding in this?
3. Would some form of consolidation or federation of your local churches be helpful? Would it be practicable?



NEG. 39228

(f) Where Rural Youth Prefer to Live

Most youth who have grown up in the country say that they prefer to live in the country rather than in the city. When asked why, they say, "more freedom", "more interesting", "not so crowded." Do you think they really can justify these claims or are they just expressing their temporary emotions?



MORE FREEDOM IN THE COUNTRY

NEG. 39229

In Southern Indiana the preference as to country or city depended somewhat on each individual's situation.

All but one of the young men farming for self or in partnership with father preferred the country.

A considerable proportion of those working at home for board and spending money preferred the city.

Practically all the young women classed as homemakers preferred to live in the country.

Nearly half of the young women working away from home preferred to live in the city.

Ten percent of all the young men and twenty percent of the young women expressed a preference for the city. How would your youth vote?

For discussion:

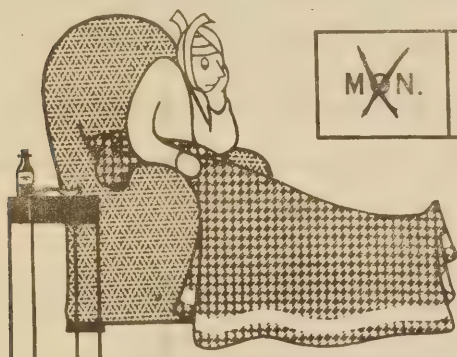
1. Is the following statement true or false: "No one should decide whether he prefers the country or the city until after he has lived at least one year in each place"?
2. Have you ever met city youth who said they would like to live in the country? What reasons did they give?
3. How much larger must a family income be in the city than in the country to provide an equally good living?

II. THE PROBLEMS OF RURAL YOUTH

(a) The Health of Rural Youth

In the Southern Indiana communities during the year previous to the survey the young men studied had been confined to the house because of illness an average of a little under 6 days. The average for the young women was a little over 6 days.

How do these records compare with experiences among rural youth in your community?



MEN.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
-----------------	------------------	-----------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------

SIX WAS THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS
CONFINED TO THE HOUSE BY ILLNESS LAST
YEAR- NEARLY ONE WEEK IN A YEAR.

NEG. 39230 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

These days of incapacitating illness are surprisingly large averages for young people, and suggest inattention on the part of many youth to matters of food and nutrition, perhaps in some case inability to obtain an adequate diet. These figures also suggest carelessness in avoiding colds and other infectious diseases.

For discussion:

1. Do rural young people in your community eat enough of the foods they should eat to keep well, especially milk, eggs, and green vegetables?
2. The Consumer's Survey indicates that one fourth of the farming people of the nation are inadequately fed, but that the proportion among city people is still larger and among village people is largest of all. Why should so many village families be poorly fed?
3. Does your community have medical services meeting farmers' needs and ability to pay?

(b) Rural Youth Have Good Times

About three fifths of the rural young people in Southern Indiana reported that they were satisfied with their recreational opportunities.

The principal activity in which they participated was the moving picture show. The young men averaged about 36 shows a year; the young women 30. Parties ranked second with about 7 a year. Some young men, however, enjoyed hunting and fishing, the younger ones athletic sports; while the young women preferred reading, needlework, and parties. Listening to radio and dancing were near the bottom of the lists, both for young men and young women.

For admissions to entertainments and direct cash outlays for recreation (not counting car or transportation costs) the young men in Southern Indiana averaged

\$16 per year

in one county

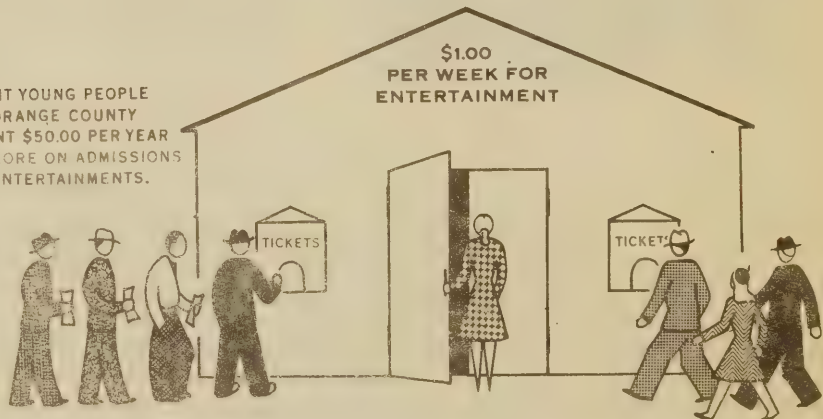
\$28 per year

in the other.

How do these
compare with
expenditures
in your com-

munity?

EIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE
IN ORANGE COUNTY
SPENT \$50.00 PER YEAR
OR MORE ON ADMISSIONS
TO ENTERTAINMENTS.



NEG. 39231

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

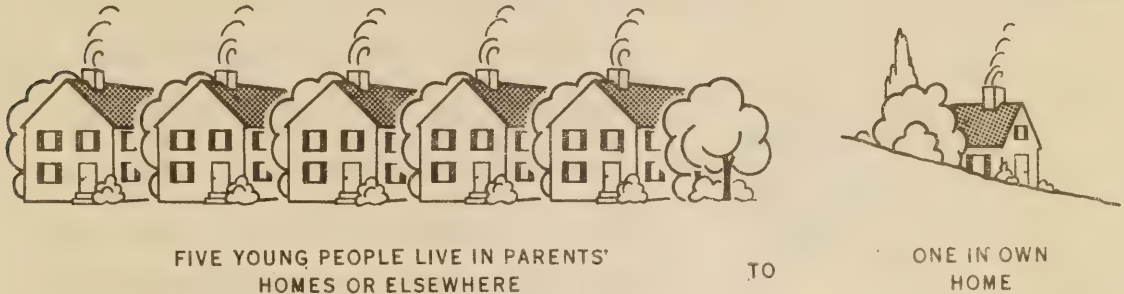
For discussion:

1. What suggestions have you for helping to make activities in your community more recreative for larger numbers of people?
2. Is recreation too commercialized? Is it too costly? If so, what is a remedy?
3. Are there any shut-ins or stay-at-home youth in your community who should be visited or remembered in some appropriate way?

(c) Conveniences in the Homes of Rural Youth

How do the number of conveniences in the homes of rural youth in your community compare with these figures for the homes in Southern Indiana: Electricity in 1/2, furnaces in 1/6, running water in 1/6, bathrooms in 1/10, telephones in 1/3, pianos in 2/5, radios and automobiles in nearly all.

How do your experiences as youth compare with these:



NEG. 39232 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Rural young people who were living in their own homes had distinctly fewer home conveniences than were in the homes of their parents.

The young women who preferred to be homemakers tended to be those who had the fewest home conveniences.

The homes of young men who were farming for themselves and of young women who were homemakers had the fewest conveniences. Many of these had only recently started farming. Tenants had fewer conveniences than owners.

The number of home conveniences did not seem to be consistently related to either education or earnings or amount spent for amusement.

For discussion:

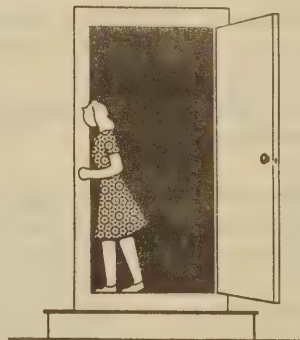
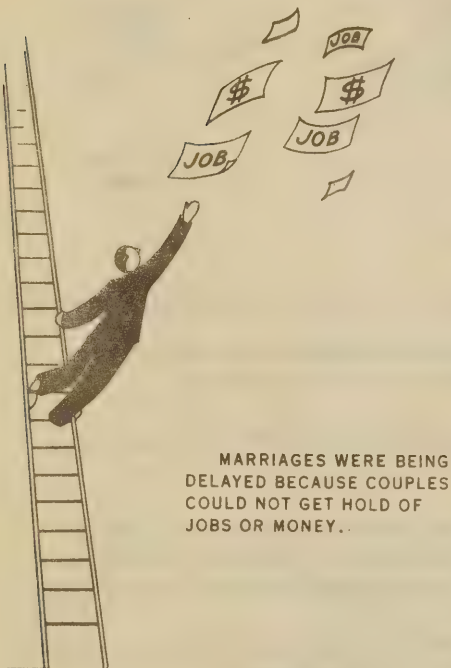
1. Are conveniences in homes of rural youth of your community limited because not wanted, or due to their costs, or to lack of ingenuity in getting them installed, or insufficient cooperation among neighbors, or what?
2. Do young women often hesitate to become farm homemakers for fear of having less home conveniences than if they went to town or remained in their parents' homes?
3. Which is better, to have few conveniences for a while and pay for a farm, or to have more conveniences and remain a tenant?

(d) When Rural Youth Marry

Are the rural young people in your community marrying and establishing families as rapidly as is apparently necessary if the present rural population is to be maintained?

In the Southern Indiana rural communities only one third of the young women aged 18 to 28 were married. About three fourths of these had children, usually one.

The 1940 Census shows that in the rural farm population three out of the six townships had a reproduction rate insufficient to hold population stationary. This suggests that migration from the farms may be much smaller 20 years hence.



The average number of brothers or sisters per youth studied in Southern Indiana was 3.5. Evidently the birth rate when their parents were raising their families was much higher than it now is.

Has the number of children per family in your community become smaller with each generation that has remained on the land?

For discussion:

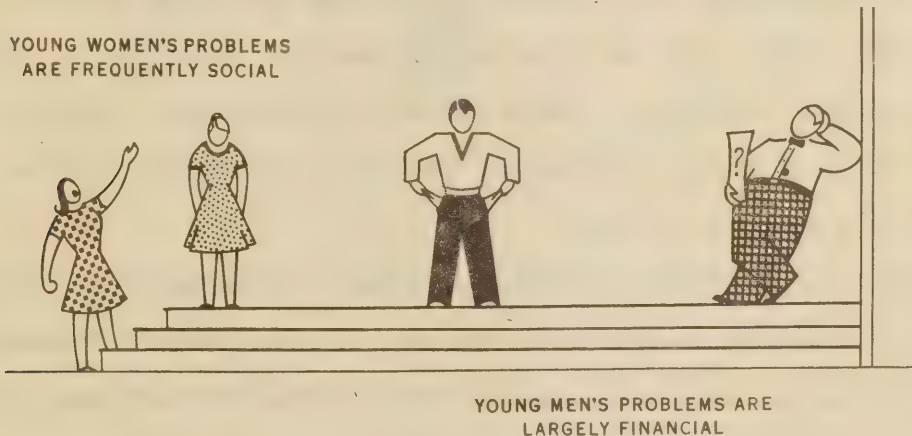
1. Why do so many rural young people marry so late and raise so few children?
2. Is an increased farm family birth rate nationally desirable? If so, how may it be brought about?

(e) Rural Youth Think About Their Problems

Ask your group this question, "What are the principal needs of the young people as a whole in our community?"

Do you agree with the ranking given by the Southern Indiana youth: 1st, employment, including farming opportunities; 2d, recreational facilities; 3d, social opportunities; 4th, better educational training; 5th, vocational guidance.

Then ask yourself individually, "What are my most important personal problems?"



NEG. 39234

In Southern Indiana three-quarters of the answers by young men had to do with earning money. The young women mentioned more frequently problems of a social, health, family, or religious nature.

For discussion:

1. What ranking do you give to the community wide problems of the rural youth in your community?
2. What are the personal problems that youth in your community say are of most concern to them?
3. Are the community wide problems really the sum of all the personal problems added together, or are there group problems that transcend the total of the personal problems?

III. OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL YOUTH

(a) Occupations Preferred by Rural Youth

Would a check up on the rural young men in your community show that they are about like those in Southern Indiana?



ONE WANTS
TO FARM

TO

TWO WHO
DO NOT

NEG. 39235

The percentage who preferred farming increased with increasing age of the person. Only a few of those under 22 years of age wanted to farm. Twice as large a proportion of those who had taken vocational agricultural courses wanted to farm as of those who had not; but 4-H Club experience showed only a moderate influence.

Of the young men, about 9 percent preferred to be mechanics, 8 percent other skilled workers (mostly in the building or stone trades), 7 percent teachers, with the remainder scattered over a variety of other occupations, including 8 percent who said they wanted to be laborers. But the majority of the young men are not following their preferred occupations. Lack of money was mentioned as the reason by over one-fourth and lack of openings, or lack of training, by many others.

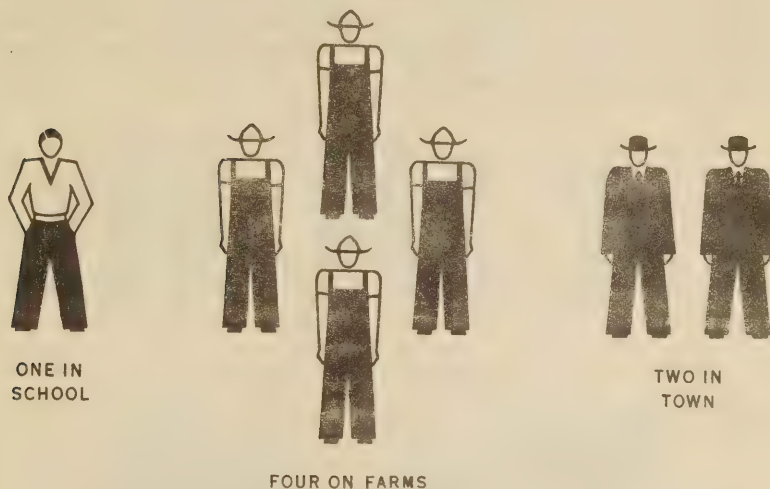
Of the young women who expressed a preference about 44 percent said homemaking, 20 percent office work, 12 percent teaching, and 9 percent nursing. The proportion who preferred homemaking increased with age. For discussion:

1. What occupations do young people in your community desire to follow?
2. Are they following them, or preparing to do so? If not, why not?

(b) Occupations Followed by Rural Youth

How does the situation in your community tally with the following employment chart for Southern Indiana:

OF 7 YOUNG MEN IN THE SURVEY



NEG 39236

Of the little more than one-half employed in agriculture, the most worked at home for board, lodging, and spending money, but one-sixth were farming for themselves and another one-sixth in farm partnership with fathers.

One-fourth of the away-from-home jobs of rural young men were farm work, one-fourth "common labor," one-eighth factory work, one-eighth truck driving, one-fourth were clerking, selling, teaching, and miscellaneous.

Over one-fourth of the rural young women were homemakers, one-third worked at home, one-fourth worked away from home, one-sixth were going to school.

The away-from-home employment of rural young women was domestic work, office work, clerking, teaching, and restaurant or beauty culture work.

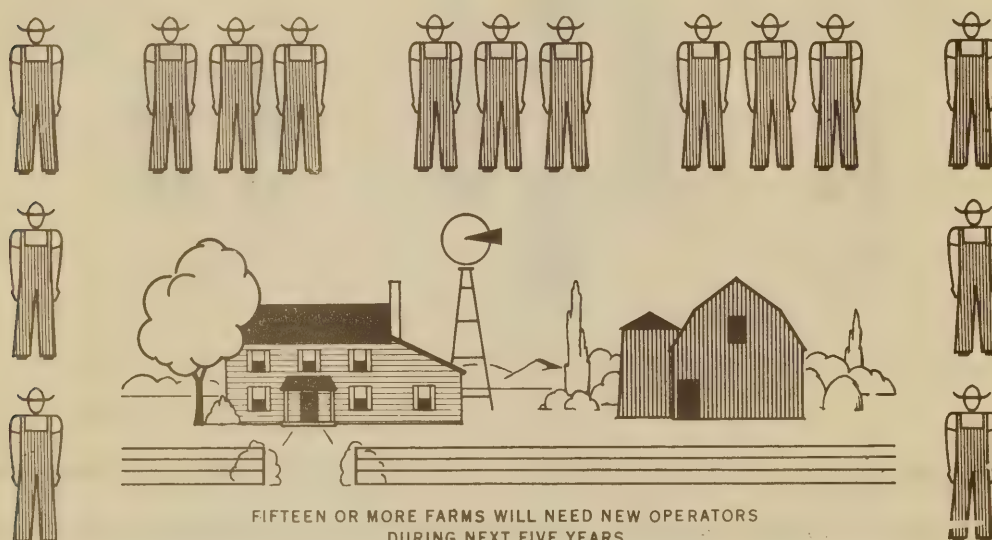
For discussion:

1. What jobs are open to young people in your community at the present time? What qualifications are demanded?
2. Are any young people in your community not satisfactorily employed? If so, what seem to be the reasons?

(c) Farm Opportunities for Rural Youth

During the next five years will as many farms in your community need new operators as the three townships studied in Monroe County?

There it was estimated by representatives of the Department of Agriculture in conference with well-informed local men that 20 farms would change operators on account of age, health, or financial conditions of present operators, 15 of these changes to take place on land classed as "agricultural" by the county land use planning committee.



NEG. 39237 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Fifteen young men 18 to 28 years of age in the three townships expressed a preference for farming as an occupation. Whether all of these young men who wish to become farm operators can obtain the necessary capital to get started, whether all of them have the necessary managerial ability, or whether their fathers will take them into satisfactory farm partnerships, are separate questions. It appears, therefore, that unless unexpected developments disturb the situation the number of farm openings will be ample for the local youths in position to fill them.

During the last five years 67 operator changes occurred on the 434 farms or parts of farms in the three townships, but only 10 of these represented youths who were just starting to farm, either for themselves or in partnership, the partnerships being usually with their fathers.

For discussion:

1. In your community in the next 5 years will there be openings for the youth who want to start farming, or will older men start to farm, or will farm operators come from outside the territory, or will the number of farm units be reduced by consolidations?

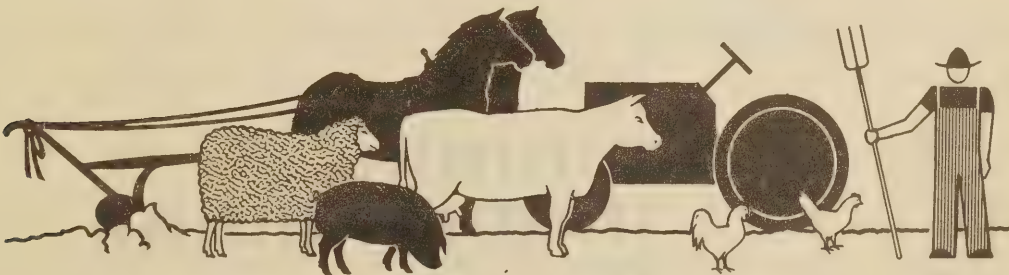
(d) Father and Son Farm Partnerships

Will the number of farm operator openings in your community likely be increased by fathers taking their sons into partnership? Are the father-son agreements now in operation proving satisfactory, as seems to be generally the case in the Indiana communities studied? What is a fair arrangement for both father and son in a typical farming partnership? Get some of the sons to tell you what their agreements are and how they are succeeding.

FATHER AND SON FARM-PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

This agreement is entered into this day of
.....19...., by and between,
the father, and, the son(s).

Some of the farms in your community, like some of those in Southern Indiana, on which operator openings will develop may not have enough good land to constitute economic units. Also, some of the young men who expressed a desire to farm may not be able to obtain enough capital to take advantage of the openings, or may not possess the managerial ability to become farm operators.



FARM OPERATORS AGED 24 TO 28 YEARS, AVERAGED
AN INVESTMENT OF \$1530

NEG. 39238

For discussion:

1. How much capital must a young man have to get started in farming in your community?
2. If farms are to be transferred from father to son by inheritance, as farms are transferred in most other countries of the world, must the farms be big enough to employ two men most of the year? Will a hired man be needed while the son is growing up?

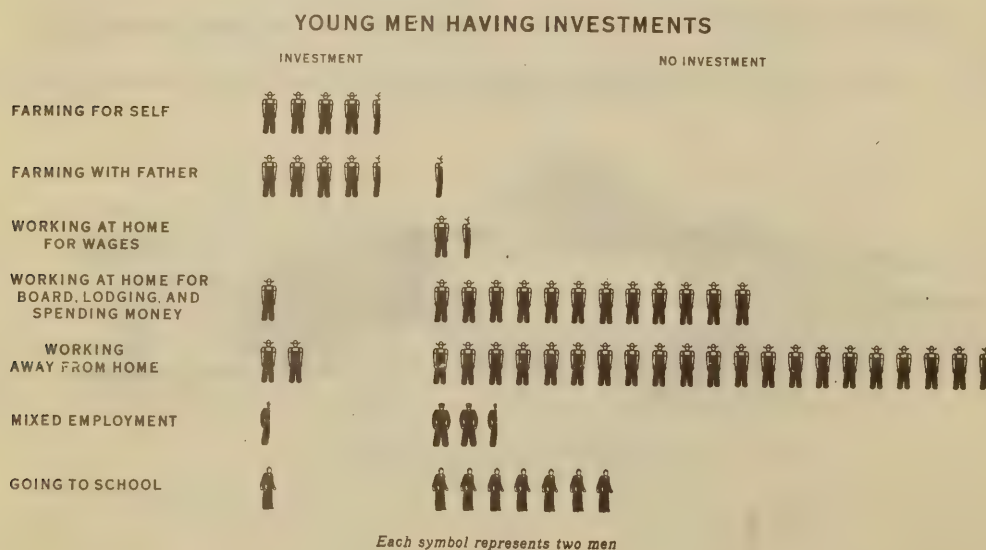
(e) Young Men Having Investments

Only one third of the rural young men in Orange County townships and one sixth of those in Monroe County townships had any investment in farming or in other business. How does that compare with your rural young men?

The more mature young men (24-28 years of age) averaged investments of \$471 in Monroe County and \$1530 in Orange County. Youth farming with fathers averaged investments of \$412 in one county and \$1075 in the other. Young men farming for themselves averaged investments of \$850 in one county and \$3643 in the other.

One fifth of the young men working away from home in Orange County had an investment, but none of the 25 working away from home in Monroe County reported an investment.

Nearly half the young men in both counties who preferred farming as an occupation, when asked how they expected to acquire the capital needed, replied - get a job in town and save. The graph below shows how many were able to do so.



For discussion:

NEG. 39462 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

1. What proportion of the young men in your community who say they desire to farm will be likely to accumulate the capital and develop the managerial ability needed to become successful farm operators?
2. What are the opportunities for employment in your community for those who are laborers only, without adequate capital or managerial ability?

(f) Tractor Farming and Rural Youth

Compare conditions in your community with Northeast Township in Orange County, which is mostly level land suited to tractor operations. Several of the father-son partnerships in that township operate two or more different tracts, often several miles apart, as a single two-man operation.

The accompanying farm map (see next page) of Northeast Township shows by broken line shading the owner-operated tracts that are worked in combinations. On a majority of these tracts there are no young people. The circles indicate the location of home farms and arrows point to other tracts operated from the home farms. The black line shading shows rented land in such combinations; also land operated by tenant-operators. The farms still operated as single tracts and not in a combination are shown in white. In at least one case five tracts are operated as one farm. The trend toward tractor farming of this type, however, is not so marked as in other parts of the Corn Belt.

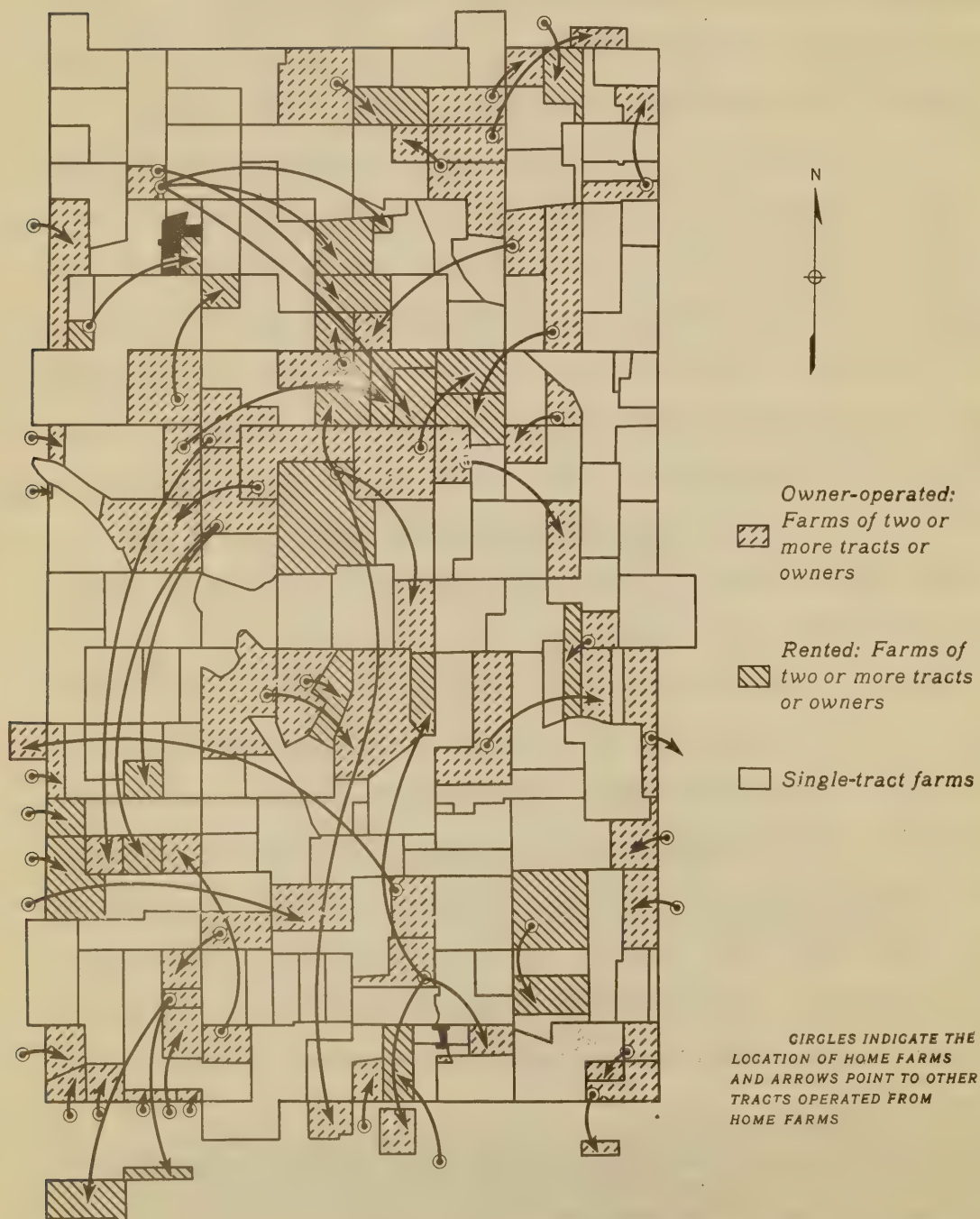
Some of the owners of the rented tracts of land are old people who continue to live in the farm house; some are workers in nearby cities or villages who like farm life and reduce the cost of living by cultivating a garden and by keeping chickens and a cow, but do not have the equipment to operate all the land they own. However, many of the rented tracts were formerly operated by tenants. The house is now rented, frequently to a man working in the nearby town. Rents are cheaper than in town and a couple of acres of land permit a garden, chickens, and sometimes a cow.

For discussion:

1. What proportion of rural youth in your community use tractors?
2. Are they good tractor mechanics who keep their machines in good order?
3. Have you any father-son partnerships that are not tractor equipped?
4. Is the consolidation of farms, as in Northeast Township, taking place in your community? Is it likely to continue?
5. What becomes of those farm operators who are pushed off the land?

FARM OPERATING UNITS, 1940

NORTHEAST TOWNSHIP
ORANGE COUNTY, INDIANA



IV. COMMUNITY PLANNING AND RURAL YOUTH

(a) Rural Youth in Bloomington Community

The three townships studied in Monroe County, Indiana are closely identified in recreational, educational, and religious activities with the city of Bloomington (population 20,870), where the University of Indiana is located. What is your community center comparable to Bloomington? Of how much territory is it the center?

Although about two fifths of the working time of all rural young men in Bloomington community and one sixth of that of the young women was away from home for pay, most of the time of young people is spent in the local neighborhood near where they live.

Next to employment opportunities, the greatest need of young people, in their own opinion, was better get-together facilities, especially in the local neighborhoods.



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For discussion:

1. What are the most commonly used meeting places at the rural neighborhood centers in your community?
2. How many such neighborhoods cluster around your county seat or whatever town may be your community center? How many townships does your community include?
3. What agencies and organizations are training youth to be better farmers and homemakers? Better workers at whatever jobs they are likely to secure? How familiar are you with the program of these agencies and organizations?
4. What suggestions have you for improving the guidance and training given to rural youth in your community?

(b) Youth on the Farms of Orleans Community

In Orange County, Indiana, the neighborhoods in Orleans and Northeast townships are part of a community of which the city of Orleans (population 1,428) is the center. Most of the farms are good agricultural land; a high proportion of the farmers are advanced in age.

In the next 5 years

59 farms may
change owners.

Nine of these
are over

160 acres,

29 from 80

to 160 acres,

21 under

80 acres.



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Thirty-one youth (18-28) living on farms in these townships seemed likely to be farmers or homemakers. These 15 young men and 16 young women consisted of:

5 young married men, 18-28 years of age, who are tenants on farms of 75 to 160 acres each. Their investments range from about \$1,000 to \$2,500. Their annual earnings are from \$500 to \$1,000.

8 young married women who are farm homemakers, of whom one went to college, 4 graduated from high school, 3 had two years in high school.

5 sons (single) in partnership with fathers who earn from \$600 to \$1,200 a year. Their investments run from \$500 to \$2,500.

8 daughters (single) all high school graduates who live at home on farms.

5 sons (single) who work for their fathers for board and spending money or for wages of from \$100 to \$400 per year, plus board and room.

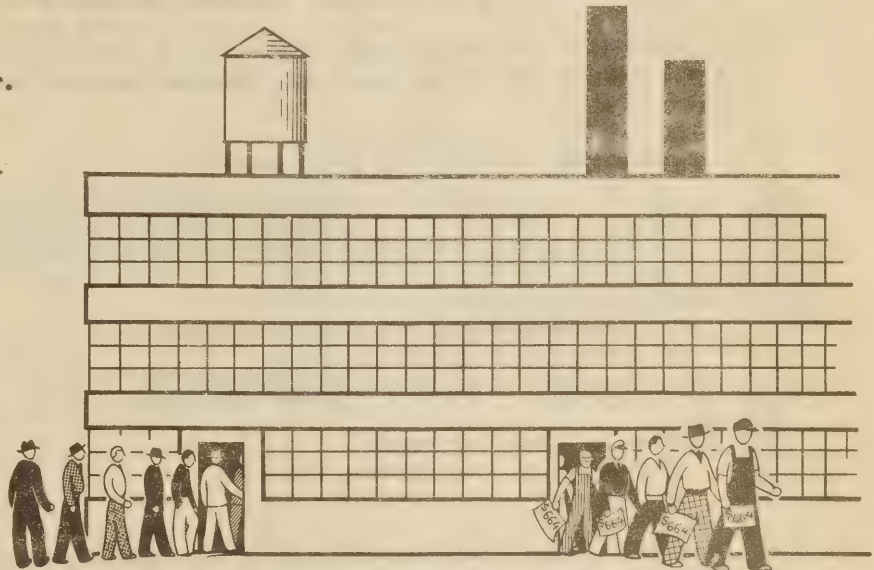
For discussion:

1. Is there a shortage of youth to take over the farms in your community, as there seems to be in Orleans?
2. Are farm families from the outside likely to move into your community in the next five years? From where are they likely to come?
3. What effect is any considerable migration into your community likely to have on your schools, your churches, your social life?

(c) Nonfarm Employment in the Paoli Community

A majority of the rural youth in the neighborhoods of Paoli and Greenfield townships belonging in the Paoli (population 2,218) community are likely to do other things than farm. In 1940 two married men lived on farms but earned their money elsewhere, one on W.P.A. Five single men report jobs as factory workers, 6 as truck or bus drivers, 6 as laborers, 2 as salesmen or clerks, 4 as teachers, and 1 each as garage operator, filling station attendant, newspaper reporter, barber, state investigator.

The average annual earnings of the young men working away from home was \$664. None admitted nonemployment, although there was considerable underemployment. Several reported earnings as low as \$250, while only one claimed to earn over \$1,000 annually.



\$664 WAS THE AVERAGE YEARLY INCOME OF THE YOUNG MEN WHO FOUND WORK AWAY FROM HOME

NEG. 39242

The young women were employed as follows: office work 5, domestic work 5, saleswomen or clerks 4, teachers 3, beauty culture 1, restaurant service 1. Their average earnings were \$505; the lowest was \$250, the highest \$1,300.

For discussion:

1. How have the rural young people of your community who are in nonfarm employment obtained their jobs?
2. Are there enough suitable houses on small farms not too far from town to meet the needs of the rural youth who will want to supplement their non-farm employment by getting part of their living from the land? If not, what "housing program" would be practicable to meet the need?
3. What religious, health, welfare, fraternal, business, or labor organizations or agencies have been found helpful by rural youth who have gone into non-farm employment in your community? Do you as a group know enough about the programs of such agencies? How can you get such information?

(d) Rural Youth Move About

The original survey of Rural Youth in Southern Indiana was made in the summer of 1940. About a year later an effort was made to learn how much they had moved about.

36 percent of the rural young men and 38 percent of the young women had changed their employment or residence or both within the year.

12 percent of the young men had entered the Army.

15 percent of the young men had obtained nonfarm employment.

15 percent of the young women had become homemakers.

14 percent of the young women had obtained nonfarm employment.

Of those young men who, in 1940, were:

Farming for themselves

14 percent had taken full time jobs off the farm

Farming in partnership with fathers -

10 percent had gone to farming for self

10 percent --- to off farm jobs

10 percent --- to military service

Working at home for wages

50 percent --- to farming for self

50 percent --- to off farm jobs

Working at home for board, lodging and spending money -

23 percent --- to off farm jobs

8 percent --- to military service

4 percent --- to farming for self

Working away from home

20 percent --- to military service

Going to school -

31 percent --- to off farm jobs

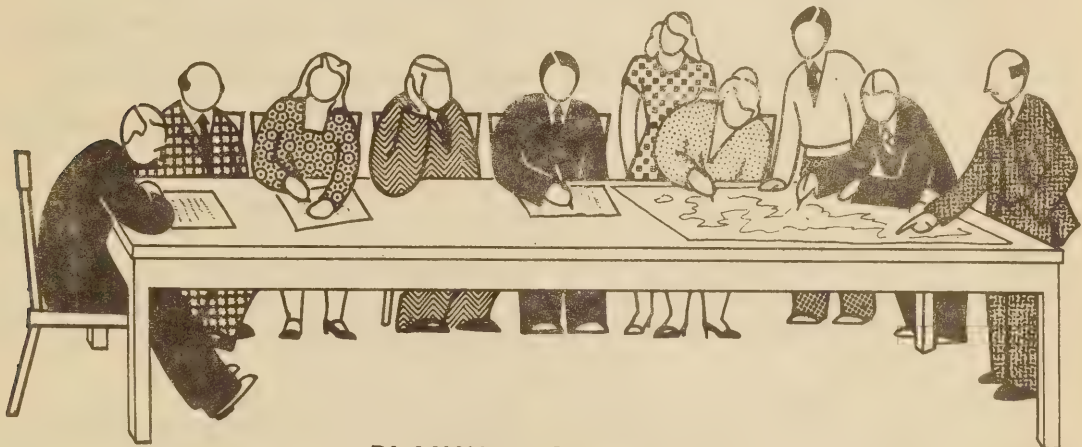
19 percent --- to military service

For discussion:

1. Are the rural youth of your community moving about in somewhat the same way as those in Southern Indiana?
2. Is it better for the community as a whole to try to stop these movements or to guide them?
3. To whom do your rural youth especially go for guidance these days?

(e) Land Use Planning Committees and Rural Youth

Planning committees generally recognize that the rural youth of today (18 to 28 years of age) will be the adults of tomorrow, on whom will fall the responsibilities of carrying out the plans now being made. Are you having a voice in making the plans for which you will have to be largely responsible in the years to come? In many counties youth is represented on the planning committee. If this is not so in your county, why not take steps likely to bring about youth participation in the planning process?



PLANNING COMMITTEE

NEG. 39243

In your county the planning committee may invite individual youth to sit in with it as members or as participants, or it may ask the organized group of older rural youth to study certain conditions and trends and make recommendations to the county planning committee. Which method do you think will work best in your county?

For Discussion:

1. What are the recommendations of the planning committee for your community?
2. Have your survey and discussions brought out any facts or viewpoints that should be presented to the committee?
3. How is the best way of getting them presented? When? By whom?

SUGGESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION GROUP MEMBERS

1. Speak your mind freely.

The discussion meeting is yours—a chance for you to say what you think. Say it. Your ideas count. Here “everyone’s idea is worth just as much as everyone else’s, and a good bit more than some.”

2. Listen thoughtfully to others.

Try hard to get the other man’s point of view—see what experience and thinking it rests on. Remember: On almost every question there are three points of view—yours, mine, and the right one.

3. Keep your seat when you speak.

Whether you are group member or leader, don’t stand up to speak. The discussion meeting is not a place for speeches. Informality is the rule here.

4. Don’t monopolize the discussion.

Don’t speak for more than a minute or so at a time. Give others a chance. Dig for things that *matter*. Make your point in a few words, then pass the ball to someone across the circle. If discussion lags, help the leader put questions that will draw others out.

5. Don’t let the discussion get away from you.

If you don’t understand where it’s going, say so. Ask for examples, cases, illustrations until you *do* understand. Try to tie up what is being said with your own experience and with what you have heard and read.

6. Indulge in friendly disagreement.

When you find that you’re on the other side of the fence from the discussion, say so and tell why. But disagree in a *friendly* way. There’s one truth that everyone’s *after*. Good-humored discussion leads part way there.

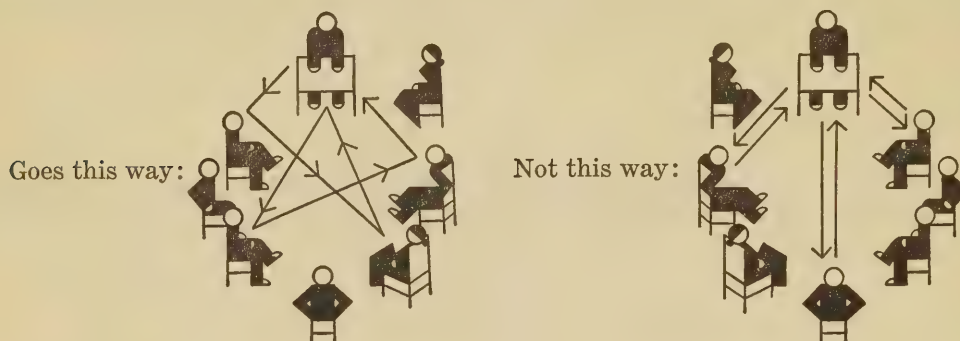
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7. Strike while the idea is hot.

Don't wait for the leader to recognize you before speaking. If several want to speak at once, it's his job to grant the floor to one, give the others a chance later. Your ideal discussion—



8. Come to the discussion with questions in mind.

Make note of questions and points of disagreement that occur to you during advance reading or listening, and raise them during the discussion. Farm papers, the daily press, lectures, public forums, the radio, etc., are good sources for clippings and notes to be used at discussion meetings.

9. Go ahead from discussion to study.

Remember that discussion is just the first step—an important one, but still just a starter. If your thinking is stirred up by the discussion here, seek out materials for further study on the problems. Ask your County Agricultural Agent, Home Demonstration Worker, or State Discussion Leader about reference materials. Call on them, too, for help in organizing a county-wide discussion movement, training leaders, etc.

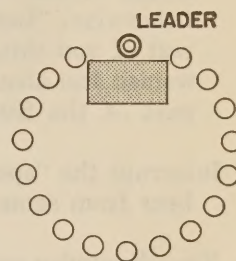
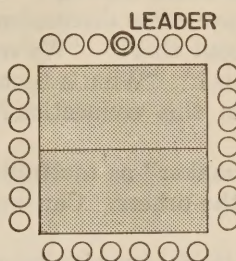
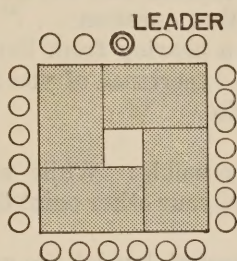
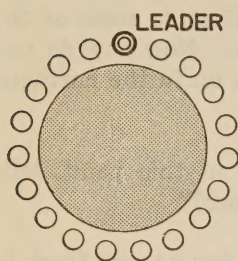
10. Why not group discussion at home?

All over the country farm men and women are gathering, often in farm homes, for discussion of public problems under local leaders. Some are using the best discussion and forum programs of the air as springboards for continuing discussion. Why not a neighborhood discussion group in your home?

SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION LEADERS

GETTING READY

1. Arrange group in circle, so each person can see every other person.
2. Provide table space, if convenient, for leader and entire group, as e. g.:



3. Let all stay seated during discussion, including leader. Keep it informal.
4. Start by making everybody comfortable. Check ventilation and lighting.
5. See that everybody knows everybody else. At first gathering go 'round the circle, each introducing himself. As a newcomer joins group later, introduce yourself to him and him to the group.
6. Learn names of all as soon as you can.
7. Have blackboard, chalk, and eraser ready for use in case of need. Appoint a "blackboard secretary" if the subject-matter and occasion make it desirable.
8. Start on time, and close at prearranged time.
9. In opening, emphasize: *Everyone* is to take part. If one single member's view fails to get out in the open, insofar the discussion falls short.
10. Toward this, emphasize: *No speeches*, by leader or group member. No monopoly. After opening statement, limit individual contributions to a minute or so.

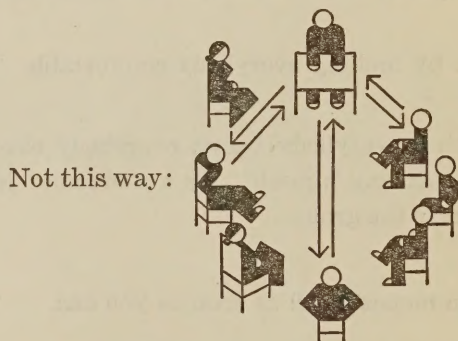
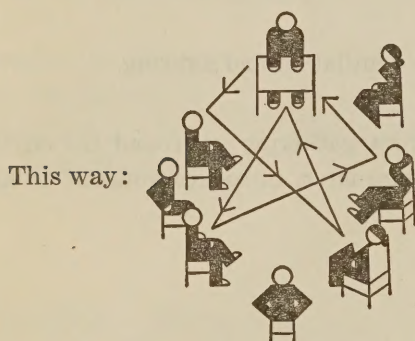
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CARRYING ON

1. Make your own preparation for the discussion. Think the question through in advance. Aim to establish connections between ideas of background materials, and experience and ideas of group-members.
2. Aim at outset to get a sharply defined question before the group. Have three or four alternatives put on board if you think this will help: "Which do you want to start with?" "Is this question clear?"
3. In general, don't put questions to particular group-members, unless you see that an idea is trying to find words there anyway: "Mrs. Brown, you were about to say something." Otherwise: "Let's have some discussion of this question . . ." "What do some of the rest of you think about this?" "We've been hearing from the men. Now how do you women feel about this?" "What's been the experience of you folks up in the northern part of the State in this connection?" Etc.
4. Interrupt the "speech maker" as tactfully as possible: "While we're on this point, let's hear from some of the others. Can we save your other point till later?"
5. Keep discussion on the track; keep it always directed, but let the group lay its own track to a large extent. Don't groove it narrowly yourself. Try to have it



6. Remember: The leader's opinion doesn't count in the discussion. Keep your own view out of it. Your job is to get the ideas of others out for an airing.
7. If you see that some important angle is being neglected, point it out: "Bill Jones was telling me last week that he thinks What do you think of that?"
8. Keep the spirits high. Encourage ease, informality, good humor. Let everybody have a good time. Foster *friendly* disagreement. Listen with respect and appreciation to all ideas, but stress what is important, and turn discussion away from what is not.
9. Take time every 10 minutes or so to draw the loose ends together: "Let's see where we've been going." Be as fair and accurate in summary as possible. Close discussion with summary—your own or the secretary's.
10. Call attention to unanswered questions for future study or for reference back to speakers. Nourish a desire in group members for continuing study and discussion through skillful closing summary.

